

In the Claims

1 1. [Currently Amended] An image forming device consumable monitoring
2 method comprising:
3 storing information regarding a plurality of consumables usable by an image
4 forming device to form hard images, wherein the stored information for an individual
5 one of the consumables includes a stored consumable identifier which identifies the
6 respective consumable and a stored party identifier utilized to identify a proper party
7 of the respective consumable;
8 receiving information regarding a consumable to be verified including a
9 received consumable identifier which identifies the consumable to be verified and a
10 received party identifier utilized to identify the proper party associated with the
11 consumable to be verified;
12 comparing the received consumable identifier with at least one of the stored
13 consumable identifiers;
14 comparing the received party identifier with at least one of the stored party
15 identifiers; and
16 ~~forwarding a message to the proper party of the respective consumable~~
17 outputting a message responsive to the comparings to indicate use of the
18 consumable to be verified by an unauthorized party who is not authorized to use the
19 consumable.

1 2. Canceled.

1 3. [Original] The method of claim 1 further comprising forwarding a
2 command to an image forming device coupled with the consumable to be verified to
3 disable at least one operation of the image forming device coupled with the
4 consumable to be verified responsive to the comparings.

1 4. [Previously Presented] The method of claim 1 further comprising
2 forwarding another message comprising a warning message to an image forming
3 device coupled with the consumable to be verified responsive to the comparings.

*PDNO. 10007611-1
Serial No. 09/932,631
Preliminary Amendment A*

1 5. [Original] The method of claim 1 further comprising recording the
2 received consumable identifier, the received party identifier, and date and time
3 information regarding the reception of the received information.

1 6. [Original] The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving the received
2 party identifier comprises receiving a received device identifier which identifies the
3 image forming device which communicated the information and wherein the storing
4 comprises storing the stored party identifier comprising at least one stored device
5 identifier which identifies an image forming device associated with the proper party
6 for the respective consumable and wherein the comparing the received party
7 identifier comprises comparing the received device identifier with the stored device
8 identifier.

1 7. [Original] The method of claim 6 wherein the storing the stored party
2 identifier comprises storing a plurality of stored device identifiers and the comparing
3 the received party identifier comprises comparing the received device identifier with
4 the plurality of stored device identifiers.

1 8. [Original] The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving the received
2 party identifier comprises receiving the received party identifier which directly
3 identifies the proper party of the respective consumable.

1 9. [Currently Amended] A consumable monitoring system comprising:
2 a database configured to store information regarding a plurality of
3 consumables usable by an image forming device to form hard images, wherein the
4 stored information for an individual one of the consumables includes a stored
5 consumable identifier which identifies the respective consumable, and a stored party
6 identifier utilized to identify a proper party associated with the respective
7 consumable;
8 an interface adapted to receive information regarding a consumable to be
9 verified including a received consumable identifier which identifies the consumable
10 to be verified and a received party identifier utilized to identify the proper party
11 associated with the consumable to be verified;

*PDNO. 10007611-1
Serial No. 09/932,631
Preliminary Amendment A*

12 processing circuitry configured to compare the received consumable identifier
13 with the stored consumable ~~identifier~~ identifiers and to compare the received party
14 identifier with the stored party identifier of a respective one of the consumables
15 corresponding to the received consumable identifier; and

16 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to control outputting of a
17 communication responsive to the received party identifier not matching the stored
18 party ~~identifiers~~ identifier of the respective consumable and wherein the
19 communication indicates the failure of the received party identifier to match the
20 stored party identifier of the respective consumable.

1 10. [Previously Presented] The system of claim 9 wherein the processing
2 circuitry is configured to forward the communication comprising a message to the
3 proper party associated with the respective consumable responsive to the
4 comparisons.

1 11. [Previously Presented] The system of claim 9 wherein the processing
2 circuitry is configured to forward the communication comprising a command to
3 disable at least one operation of an image forming device coupled with the
4 consumable to be verified responsive to the comparison.

1 12. [Previously Presented] The system of claim 9 wherein the processing
2 circuitry is configured to forward the communication comprising a warning message
3 to an image forming device coupled with the consumable to be verified responsive
4 to the comparison.

1 13. [Original] The system of claim 9 further comprising a memory device,
2 and wherein the processing circuitry is configured to forward the received
3 consumable identifier, the received party identifier, and date and time information
4 regarding the reception of the received consumable identifier and the received party
5 identifier to the memory device for storage.

1 14. [Currently Amended] The system of claim 9 wherein the interface is
2 adapted to receive the information regarding the consumable to be verified including
3 the received party identifier comprising a received device identifier which identifies
4 the image forming device which communicated the information and wherein the
5 database is configured to store the stored party ~~identifier~~ identifiers comprising at
6 least one stored device identifier which identifies an image forming device
7 associated with the proper party for the respective consumable and wherein the
8 processing circuitry is configured to compare the received device identifier with the
9 stored device identifier to compare the received party identifier with the stored party
10 identifier.

1 15. [Currently Amended] The system of claim ~~[[14]]~~ 9 wherein the
2 database is configured to store the stored party identifier comprising a plurality of
3 stored device ~~identifier~~ identifiers which identify a plurality of image forming devices
4 associated with the proper party of the respective consumable, and wherein the
5 processing circuitry is configured to compare the received party identifier comprising
6 a received device identifier with the stored device identifiers.

1 16. [Original] The system of claim 9 wherein the interface is adapted to
2 receive the information regarding the consumable to be verified including the
3 received party identifier which directly identifies the proper party of the respective
4 consumable.

1 17. [Previously Presented] An image forming device comprising:
2 an image engine configured to use a consumable to form a hard image;
3 processing circuitry coupled with the image engine and configured to
4 formulate an identifier message including a party identifier utilized to identify a party
5 associated with image forming device and an identifier of the consumable, and
6 wherein the processing circuitry is further configured to control communication of
7 the identifier message;
8 an interface adapted to communicate externally of the image forming device
9 and to communicate the identifier message; and
10 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to detect coupling of the

PDNO. 10007611-1
Serial No. 09/932,631
Preliminary Amendment A

11 consumable with the image forming device and to control the communication of the
12 identifier message responsive to the detection of the coupling.

1 18. [Original] The device of claim 17 wherein the interface is adapted to
2 receive a command responsive to the communication of the identifier message, and
3 the processing circuitry is configured to disable at least one operation of the image
4 forming device with respect to formation of hard images responsive to receiving the
5 command.

1 19. [Original] The device of claim 17 wherein the interface is adapted to
2 receive a warning message responsive to the communication of the identifier
3 message, and the processing circuitry is configured to control communication of the
4 warning message using the image forming device responsive to receiving the
5 warning message.

1 20. [Original] The device of claim 17 wherein the processing circuitry is
2 configured to formulate the identifier message including the party identifier which
3 identifies the image forming device.

1 21. [Original] The device of claim 17 wherein the processing circuitry is
2 configured to formulate the identifier message including the party identifier which
3 directly identifies the party associated with the image forming device.

1 22. Canceled.

1 23. [Original] The device of claim 17 wherein the image engine comprises
2 a print engine.

1 24. [Currently Amended] The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~forwarding~~
2 outputting comprises ~~forwarding~~ outputting the message to the ~~proper party~~
3 ~~comprising~~ an owner of the respective consumable.

1 25. Cancel.

PDNO. 10007611-1
Serial No. 09/932,631
Preliminary Amendment A

1 26. [Currently Amended] The method of claim 1 wherein the comparing
2 the received consumable identifier occurs before the comparing the received party
3 identifier and the forwarding outputting comprises forwarding outputting the
4 message responsive to the received consumable identifier matching at least one of
5 the stored consumable identifiers and the received party identifier failing to match a
6 stored party identifier of the respective consumable associated with the at least one
7 stored consumable identifier.

1 27. Cancel.

1 28. [Previously Presented] The device of claim 17 wherein the processing
2 circuitry is configured to push the communication of the identifier message
3 responsive to the detection of the coupling.

1 29. [Previously Presented] The device of claim 17 wherein the processing
2 circuitry is configured to push the communication of the identifier message
3 responsive to the detection of the coupling and in the absence of a polling
4 communication.

1 30. [New] The method of claim 1 wherein the message indicates the
2 failure of the received party identifier to match any stored party identifier associated
3 with the consumable to be verified.

1 31. [New] The method of claim 26 further comprising, using the received
2 consumable identifier, identifying the at least one stored party identifier to be used
3 for the comparing with the received party identifier.

1 32. [New] The system of claim 9 wherein the communication indicates
2 use of the consumable to be verified by an unauthorized party.

PDNO. 10007611-1
Serial No. 09/932,631
Preliminary Amendment A

- 1 33. [New] The system of claim 32 wherein the processing circuitry is
2 configured to address the communication for communication to the proper party and
3 to control outputting of another communication comprising a warning message of
4 unauthorized use to an image forming device coupled with the consumable to be
5 verified.

*PDNO. 10007611-1
Serial No. 09/932,631
Preliminary Amendment A*